

**POSTAGE SYSTEM HAVING TELEPHONE ANSWERING
AND MESSAGE RETRIEVAL CAPABILITY**

Abstract of the Invention

5 A postage system includes a data center, a population of postage metering systems and a control system that is in operative communication with the data center and the population of postage metering systems. The population of postage metering systems are located remote from the data center and are geographically distributed. The control system receives an incoming telephone
10 call at one postage metering system of the population of postage metering system, stores a voice message associated with the telephone call and retrieves the voice message from another postage metering system of the population of postage metering systems.